

4 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: China Group Review of Chinese Activities Relevant to the
Current Situation in Indochina, 3 March 1971

1. In the past week Peking has projected an image of reduced concern about events in Indochina. This is apparent not only in the softer rhetoric of its public statements but also [redacted] comments by Chinese Communist officials in Vientiane and Hong Kong.

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2. Chinese propaganda has moderated earlier concern over events in Laos and now stresses confidence in the ability of the North Vietnamese to handle the fighting in Laos. This more restrained posture was evident in the March 1 speech by politburo-member Hsu Shih-yu (also Commander of the Nanking Military Region), who raised no new threats and did not repeat previous Chinese warnings linking Laotian developments with China's security.

3. The group noted that there is no current parallel to the diplomatic and political activity laid on by Peking in 1950 or 1962 in advance of the invasions of Korea and India. Nor do we currently see indicators that suggest significant military preparations on the part of the Chinese. We have received no further information on the

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ONE/DDI China Group

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